



## Louisiana Public Defender Board

### Internship Program

Application Deadline:  
**Friday April 16, 2010**

#### **LPDB Mission:**

*In pursuit of equal justice, the Louisiana Public Defender Board advocates for clients, supports practitioners and protects the public by continually improving the services guaranteed by the constitutional right to counsel. Through its commitment to performance standards, ethical excellence, data-driven practices and client-centered advocacy, the Louisiana Public Defender Board oversees the delivery of high quality legal services affecting adults, children and families, and supports community well-being across Louisiana.*

## About LPDB:

*The Louisiana Public Defender Board was created by the Public Defender Act on August 15, 2007, and is an agency within the Office of the Governor.*

The agency:

- Administers the Public Defender Fund, which supports all 42 judicial districts;
- Contracts with eight 501(c)3 non-profit organizations who provide capital, appellate, and post-conviction representation to indigent clients;
- Supervises the public defender system through on-site evaluations, intensive financial reporting requirements, relevant and accurate data collection, and monitored compliance with approved policies and performance standards;
- Conducts a statewide training program for public defender attorneys, investigators, and support staff to promote the delivery of high quality services to clients;
- Provides juvenile-dedicated staff and resources to support the specialized needs of juvenile clients and the unique practice of juvenile law;
- Conducts research to inform policy discussions and support advocacy efforts, and; Promotes the fundamental values of fairness, compassion and client-centeredness.

LPDB consists of 18 staff working under *State Public Defender Jean M. Faria*, and is supervised by a 17-member Board of Directors.

*The Chairman is Frank X. Neuner, Jr.* (appointed by the Governor). The Board also includes representatives from each of the four Louisiana law schools.

### **Statement from the Chairman:**

I thank you for your interest in the Louisiana Public Defender Board Internship Program. We hope to recruit and retain talented, committed lawyers from our Louisiana law schools, and hope that this experience causes you to consider career opportunities within Louisiana's public defender system. The challenges are significant, but the rewards are great. The district offices and state agency participating in the Internship Program are as committed as I am to create your sustained interest in this field.



*Frank X. Neuner, Jr. is Managing Partner at Laborde & Neuner in Lafayette, LA. He is the Chairman of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, is a past-president of the Louisiana State Bar Association and currently serves as an elected Louisiana delegate to the American Bar Association. He has been honored with numerous awards; in 2008 the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center named Mr. Neuner as the Distinguished Alumni of the Year.*

## About the LPDB Internship Program:

After a competitive selection process, interns commit to fulfill a minimum of 225 hours of service with a district public defender office or the state agency over the 9-week Internship Program. Interns must participate in a day-long LPDB Intern Orientation before beginning and a day-long LPDB Intern Debrief in Baton Rouge at the end of the Internship Program.

Intern schedules, projects, and direct mentors are negotiated between LPDB, the district and the intern to best suit the skills and expectations of the intern. In all cases, interns receive support and participate in regular communication with LPDB staff at the state agency even if conducting the bulk of their internship in a District Public Defender Office. The 2010 LPDB Intern Program Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 2010. The LPDB Internship Program Debrief is scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2010. Both events will be in Baton Rouge. The 225 hours of required service must be completed between these dates. Interns receive a stipend of \$2,250 for the program. There are no allowances for housing, travel or other related costs.

The LPDB Internship Program provides law students in Louisiana with the opportunity to explore a public-interest career within the public defender system. The Program provides structure to ensure that each intern receives trial exposure, client contact, research opportunities and the ability to shadow a public defender providing legal defense services, while also witnessing the many component parts of Louisiana's criminal justice system. More than 90% of defendants facing criminal/delinquency charges in Louisiana are represented by a public defender; accounting for over 250,000 cases in 2009. Without the resources to hire a private attorney, clients must rely on a public defender to advocate for not only their liberty, but also minimize the impact of their arrest and incarceration upon their lives and their community. The LPDB Internship Program provides a real-life glimpse into the power and potential of a public defender to ensure justice for all and serve as a critical community

asset for the strength and safety of every Louisiana community.

Interviews will be held on intern's respective law school campuses on a rolling basis and will be conducted by a LPDB staff member. The application deadline is Friday, April 16, 2010. Final decisions will be made no later than Monday, May 3, 2010.

### For more information, contact:

**Heather H. Hall, Special Projects Advisor**  
email: [internships@lpdb.la.gov](mailto:internships@lpdb.la.gov)

### **What previous interns have said about the LPDB Internship Program:**

*"...Working in the Public Defender's Office at Juvenile Court has been a real eye- opener. I have learned that the myth about the public defender being the guy from law school who didn't have the grades and the drive to go to a corporate firm is just that- a myth. Working with the attorneys- as well as the investigators- has shown me that this is a dedicated, compassionate, and exceptionally competent group."*

— Baton Rouge Public Defender's Office Intern (2009)

*"...I consider my experience this summer to be invaluable, and public defense is a career I will definitely continue to consider as I continue my law school experience."*

— Caddo Parish Office of the Public Defender Intern (2009)

*"...This served as a great opportunity to learn more about the law and see it put into actual practice. It is beneficial to get out of the classroom and see how criminal law is practiced. It is also interesting to see the reality of the law, its effect upon people, and how different attorneys approach problems with their own methods."*

— Baton Rouge Public Defender's Office Intern (2009)

## Application:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School: \_\_\_\_\_ Yr: ☐1L ☐2L ☐3L

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Interest Areas (check as many as apply):

- ☐ Criminal Law
- ☐ Juvenile Delinquency
- ☐ Capital Cases/Mitigation
- ☐ Child in Need of Care (Abuse and Neglect Cases)
- ☐ Policy and Research
- ☐ Investigation
- ☐ Trial Experience

Geographic Preferences (check as many as apply):

- ☐ Greater New Orleans: Orleans Public Defenders, Juvenile Regional Services, St. Bernard Public Defender's Office (34th JDC)
- ☐ Baton Rouge: East Baton Rouge Public Defender's Office (19th JDC)
- ☐ Louisiana Public Defender Board (state agency/no direct service)
- ☐ Lake Charles: Calcasieu Public Defender's Office (14th JDC)
- ☐ Monroe: 4th Judicial District Indigent Defender Office
- ☐ Shreveport: Caddo Parish Office of the Public Defender (1st JDC)
- ☐ Natchitoches: Natchitoches Public Defender's Office (10th JDC)

Please attach a **current resume** and a **1-000 word statement of interest** in the Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB) Internship Program, along with **three references, at least one of which must be law school faculty**. Please include phone and e-mail contact information.

**Application deadline: Friday, April 16, 2010**

### **By Mail:**

Louisiana Public Defender Board  
500 Laurel St., Suite 300  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

**By Fax:** 225-219-9326

**By Email:** [internships@lpdb.la.gov](mailto:internships@lpdb.la.gov)

**Or:** Via the submission service provided by the law school Career Development Office (please note all preferences in your application materials if this flyer is not submitted)